

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Democracy is founded on the principle of free and open debate; and imposing one corporation's views on the masses, to the exclusion of contrary views, is by definition NOT serving the public interest. Not everyone is aware that broadcasting companies are private corporations and not the impartial, benevolent purveyors of unbiased facts. To use one's position to exploit that sad fact is bullying of the worse sort, and shows a blatant disregard for the spirit of democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.